



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

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**BACK TO THE FUTURE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE
AT WARWICK'S CCRI KNIGHT CAMPUS IN APRIL**

Back to the Future, the 35th Annual Rhode Island Historic Preservation Conference, will take place at CCRI's Knight Campus in Warwick on Saturday, April 25, 2020. The event is organized by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) in collaboration with Community College of Rhode Island, the City of Warwick, Warwick Historical Society, and numerous partners. We welcome participants from all over Rhode Island and southern New England.

The theme of this year's event, **Back to the Future**, presents several new frontiers for historic preservation, starting with the history and architecture of Rhode Island's recent past. It's 2020, and post-WWII suburban subdivisions and roadside architecture, Modernist school buildings and houses of worship are old enough to meet historic preservation's "50-year rule"—the threshold for historic designation. The conference will also showcase the latest tools to protect historic places in the face of climate change and new ways to engage more Rhode Islanders in preserving their heritage.

The keynote speaker is Modern architecture advocate George Smart. 2007 Smart started a project that has become USModernist, the world's largest online digital archive for Modernist residential design. George and his team of volunteers have documented more than 7000 Modernist houses across America, and helped hundreds of endangered properties find new owners. Smart also hosts and produces USModernist Radio, a premier architecture and design podcast. The Opening Session will feature welcoming remarks from Mayor Joseph Solomon, CCRI Associate Vice President Alix Ogden, RIHPHC Chair Ruth Taylor, and RIHPHC Executive Director J. Paul Loether.

Conference headquarters is CCRI's Knight Campus. This bold Brutalist-style megastructure, erected in 1968-72, is one of Rhode Island's most architecturally significant buildings. Tours will explore Knight Campus, the 19th-century Knight Estate, the villages of Pontiac and Apponaug, post-WWII neighborhoods of Governor Francis Farms and Garden City (Cranston), and Cowesett's Clouds Hill. Sessions will explore Warwick's archaeology, mapping and social media, Modern houses, preservation futurism, and more.

Registration costs \$50 (includes breakfast, lunch, and all programs). For more information, visit the conference website: preservationconferenceri.com.

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